(c) to (e) The details of the projects which will result in capacity addition during the 9th Plan period (1997—2002) are given below:

Name of Project and Company	Type	Status	Capacity (MW)
N.T.P.C.			
Auraiya	Gas	New, yet to be approved	650
Unchahar	Thermal	Ongoing	420
T.H.D.C.			
Tehri Stage-I	Hydro	Ongoing	1000

Shortage of Coal to Badarpur Thermal Power Unit

559. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Badarpur Thermal Power Plant has been facing severe shortage of Coal;

(b) whether one unit of that plant is likely to be closed down; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to get coal as per the demand of that plant to ensure the smooth running of the unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) All the Units of the Badarpur Thermal Power Station are working and no unit will be closed down on account of coal supply. In the past the Badarpur Thermal Power Station has on occasions not been getting regular coal supplies because of default in payments by Badarpur Thermal Power Station to coal companies and Railways owing to inadequate realisation of dues from Delhi Vidyut Board. However, as a result of efforts made in consultation with Government of NCT of Delhi and Ministry of Home Affairs there has been some improvement in the payment of current dues.

(c) The Central Electricity Authority is monitoring the coal supply to thermal power stations including Badarpur Thermal Power Station on a daily basis. In addition, supply of coal to various sectors including power sector is monitored fortnightly by Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat in a meeting of Group of Officers from the Ministries of Coal, Power, Steel, Surface Transport, CEA, NTPC and CIL.

Private Sector participation in transmission and Distribution of Power

560. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided in principle to invite private sector participation in transmission and distribution of power; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The Government had introduced the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997, in Parliament on 13th March, 1997. The Bill will provide an enabling frame work for private sector participation in transmission projects. The proposed amendments would facilitate the entry of private sector in the field of transmission as transmission licencees. The Bill is under the consideration of the Standing Committee on Energy.